

THE HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE

CHRISTOPHER COX, CHAIRMAN

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Rep. Wilson Named Chair of Policy Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs

WASHINGTON (Thursday, March 22, 2001)—House Policy Chairman Christopher Cox (R-Calif.) announced today that Rep. Heather Wilson (R-NM) would chair the House Policy Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs in the 107th Congress.

“Heather's unique blend of military, executive branch, and legislative experience make her an excellent choice to lead the Republican Policy Committee on National Security,” said House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert. “I look forward to working with Heather to ensure that we maintain a strong and effective national defense.”

“It's appropriate that while so many experts who formerly advised the House leadership are moving into the new administration, a veteran of the President's National Security Council staff is taking more responsibility for ensuring that Congress gets the best guidance on the nation's most important matters,” Chairman Cox said. “We expect that Rep. Wilson's subcommittee, the largest of the seven Policy subcommittees, will make significant contributions to our national security.”

“The challenges facing our nation's military in the next ten years are the most complex and challenging in a generation,” Rep. Wilson said. “I look forward to working with Chairman Cox and others to craft policies that will transform our nation's military, restore the strength of our national defense, and create a comprehensive energy policy for the first time in over a decade.”

A distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1982, Congresswoman Wilson was a Rhodes Scholar and earned her masters and doctoral degrees in international relations from Oxford University in England. As an Air Force officer, she worked with our NATO allies and in the United Kingdom. After leaving the Air Force in 1989, she became Director for European Defense Policy and Arms Control on the National Security Council staff at the White House.

As the nationally known experts with whom the Policy Committee has worked formally and informally in recent years have moved into the Bush administration, the Policy Committee has responded by establishing a formal subcommittee structure to fulfill its mission as the policy-making arm of the House of Representatives. Chairman Cox announced Rep. Wilson's appointment at today's weekly Policy Committee meeting.

The House Policy Committee is the Majority's principal forum for discussion of specific legislative initiatives, for the enunciation of official priorities, and for the resolution of inter-jurisdictional policy disputes. More information on the Committee, including a list of its 46 Members, is available at <http://policy.house.gov>.